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**BOROUGH OF YEOVIL**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1954**



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**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1954**

ALDERMAN W. B. HICKMAN

ALDERMAN W. AUSTIN

Councillor A. C. SINGLETON

Student Sanitary Inspector ... .. W. J. PEARCE.

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TO THE  
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE  
YEOVIL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1954.

### GENERAL REMARKS

A. The health of the community has been satisfactory, the number of infectious diseases notified was 53 as compared with 517 for the year 1953.

The Standardised Death Rate for the year was 9·57 as compared with 10·85 for the year 1953 ; the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11·3.

The Standardised Birth Rate was 13·9 as compared with 15·04 for the previous year and 15·2 for England and Wales. The Birth Rate has shown a steady decline in the past ten years as can be noted from the table showing the birth rate for the past ten years.

B. At the end of my report I have included an abstract from the Annual Report of the Principal School Medical Officer of the Somerset County Council, which I compiled showing the scope of the present School Medical Service in Yeovil, and comparing it with the service which was provided in the year 1924. Inasmuch as the school children comprise a large percentage of the public, it was thought that the report would be of interest to the Members of the Council.

In order to "complete the picture," the following Statistics for the two years under review are given.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

					1924	1954
Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	825 acres	2,256 acres
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£73,855	£194,367
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£288	£761
No. of Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	3,571	7,440
Population	...	...	...	...	16,060	23,850



## VITAL STATISTICS

	1924	1954
Population ... ..	16,060	23,850
No. of Births ... ..	283	322
Birth Rate per 1,000 ... ..	17·6	13·9
No. of Deaths ... ..	174	247
Death Rate per 1,000 ... ..	10·8	9·57
Infantile Mortality ... ..	77·7	21·7
Phthisis Death Rate ... ..	0·8	0·20
Cancer Death Rate ... ..	1·3	1·7

## YEOVIL BOROUGH

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1954

Area (in acres) ... ..	2,256
Rateable Value (31st March, 1955) ... ..	£194,367
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in year ending 31st March, 1955 ... ..	£761
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1955) ... ..	7,440
Population ... ..	23,850

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,256 acres and is situated at the extreme South of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural area.

The town is located on the Upper and Middle Liassic Formation. The sub-soil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are ; on the North, Mudford Road, 372 feet ; on the West, Bunford Lane, 233 feet, and on the South, West Coker Road, 309 feet. The lowest point is on the East, beyond the Sewage Works, 96·7 feet.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply is derived from various sources, the majority being situated in Dorset. The sources of supply are as follows :—Spring Pond (two springs), Evershot Tunnel, upper and lower Haydon Wood, Stockwood and the Cattistock source, which consists of four boreholes. In addition, water is obtained from a borehole at Preston Plucknett, and as a temporary measure additional water is obtained from a borehole at Bunford Hollow. All the water is chlorinated and frequent bacteriological analysis show the water to be satisfactory in quality. Unfortunately, the quantity

available does not meet the present demand, which is approximately 1,200,000 gallons per day. An arrangement has been agreed to with the Yeovil Rural District to obtain an additional supply from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir when completed, which should ensure adequate supplies for the foreseeable future.

## METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog and mist.

## RAINFALL

Summerleaze Park School. Total Rainfall—30·95 inches.

## POPULATION

The population for 1954 is 23,850.

## OCCUPATION

The main industry of Yeovil is in the manufacture of leather gloves, and includes all processes from the preparation of the raw hides to the production of the finished article. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of the persons of both sexes.

In addition to the gloving industry there is a thriving aircraft industry and other light engineering industries, employing nearly 3,000 persons. There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved food and dairy products.

The number of factories powered is 152, and the number of factories non-powered is 45.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services in the Borough are administered by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are

- (1) The Yeovil and District Hospital—an acute general hospital.
- (2) Summerlands Hospital—mainly used as a Geriatric hospital.
- (3) Yeovil Maternity Hospital (Crossways). 14 Beds.
- (4) Balidon Maternity Hospital—a General Practitioners Unit. 17 Beds.

It is interesting to note that in 1924, the Yeovil and District Hospital contained 28 beds, two cots and four private wards. It provided treatment for 455 in-patients and 469 out-patients. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 111. In 1954, the comparable figures were ; number of beds 82, of which 6 are private, the number of in-patients treated was 2,621 and the number of new out-patients 5,037. The number of X-ray examinations carried out was 17,345. In considering these figures, it must be borne in mind that the area which the hospital now serves has considerably increased. Despite the valuable services which the hospitals carry out, it cannot be stated that the present hospital buildings and equipment are adequate for the present and potential requirements of the Borough and surrounding district. The matter is under review by the responsible authorities.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are treated at the South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, the Cubicle Block 10 Beds is only required and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on the Yeovil Hospital and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

## TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Sanatoria at Quantock and Taunton.

## CHRONIC SICK

Summerlands Hospital (97 beds), which is situated in the Borough, is the largest hospital in the area used for this purpose. This hospital was originally a Poor Law Institute built in 1837, and the layout etc., does not conform with the accepted standards of today. Further, there is a constant shortage of nursing staff, but despite these handicaps, valuable work is carried out by the staff of the hospital. I am of the opinion that better use of the beds in the area could be made if there was a scheme whereby the prospective patients could be visited in their homes so as to assess the relative need for admission, this information would also be of value in determining whether a patient could be discharged home. Such a scheme would reduce the constant waiting list for admission.



## LABORATORY SERVICE

A small laboratory is located at the Yeovil Hospital. A Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analysis for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents are also carried out.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is a responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The Ambulance Control Office is located at the Summerlands Hospital. The Ambulances and the larger types of vehicles for sitting cases are in radio communication with the control office. A daily 24 hour service is maintained.

The two most outstanding differences are the fall in the Infantile Mortality Rate and the Phthisis Death Rate, which indicate the advances which have been made in the well-being of the Community.

## HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager, Mr. A. H. M. Herington, for the resumé showing the number of Council Houses erected by the Corporation.

Houses completed in the years to 31st December :—

1946	150	Prefabs.	
1947	61	Houses	
1948	19	„	
1949	95	„	
1950	80	„	
1951	132	„	and flats
1952	120	„	„ „
1953	138	„	„ „
1954	178	„	„ „ and bungalows
To 1/7/55	67	„	„ „
	<hr/>		
	1,040		
	<hr/>		

Houses etc., erected pre-war	...	...	...	1,596
„ „ sold pre-war	...	...	...	113
				<hr/>
„ „ owned at 31/12/39	...	...	...	1,483
Houses etc., erected post-war	...	...	...	1,040
„ „ sold post-war	...	...	...	54
				<hr/>
				986
				<hr/>
Houses etc., erected by Local Authority and still owned by them	...	...	...	2,469
				<hr/>

The number of applicants on the waiting list as at the 31st December, 1954, was 915 as compared with 1,245 in December, 1953. It is interesting to note that in his Annual Report for the year 1924, Dr. C. W. Gee, the Medical Officer of Health reports on the housing shortage then.

I have pleasure in again recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Health and Sanitary Committee and from the Members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

P. POWER FOX.  
*Medical Officer of Health*

## VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfers to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of our district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General and applied to the crude birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

BIRTHS				1954		1953
(a) LIVE BIRTHS			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	167	145	312	345
Illegitimate	...	...	4	6	10	11
Total	...	...	171	151	322	356
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population					13·5	14·9
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population					13·90	15·04

(b) STILL BIRTHS				1954		1953
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	3	5	8	6
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—	1
Grand Total			3	5	8	7
Still birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births					24·2	19·2

DEATHS				1954		1953
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total deaths	...	...	128	119	247	281
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population					10·35	11·8
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population					9·57	10·85

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY				1954	1953
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	7	8
Deaths among Legitimate Infants	...	...	...	7	8
„ „ Illegitimate Infants	...	...	...	—	—
Death Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	21·7	22·5
„ „ „ 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	22·4	23·4
„ „ „ 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	41	51
Deaths from Heart Diseases (all ages)	...	...	...	88	98
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	...	...	...	5	4

## BIRTHS

The total number of births was 322, 171 male and 151 female. Of these, 10 were illegitimate, 4 male and 6 female. The table below shows the birth rate for the previous ten years.

## BIRTH RATES

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
19·4	19·5	20·3	16·4	15·8	14·6	15·3	15·08	14·9	13·5

## DEATHS

There was a decrease in the total number of deaths, 247 in 1954 as compared with 281 for the previous year. The Standardised Death Rate was 9·57 as compared with 10·85 for the previous year; the Death Rate for England and Wales was 11·3. The Death Rate is the lowest for the past 10 years.

The following table shows the age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males of the 128 deaths, 115 occurred amongst those 65 years and over, and 65 amongst those 75 years and over. Of the females, out of the total of 119 deaths, 112 were 65 years and over, 64 were 75 years and over.



The following table shows the Causes of Death during 1954.

<i>Ages at Death in Years</i>					1954		
					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
1	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
15	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
25	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
45	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
65	...	...	...	...	26	25	51
Total under 70	...	...	...	...	39	32	71
70	...	...	...	...	24	23	47
75	...	...	...	...	24	17	41
80	...	...	...	...	20	14	34
85	...	...	...	...	12	20	32
90	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
95	...	...	...	...	1	6	7
Over 100	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total over 70	...	...	...	...	89	87	176
Totals	...	...	...	...	128	119	247

CAUSES OF DEATH	1954	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis respiratory .. ..	4	1
„ Other forms .. ..	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .. ..	3	5
„ „ Lung, Bronchus .. ..	5	2
„ „ Breast .. ..	—	7
„ „ Uterus .. ..	—	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. ..	11	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .. ..	2	—
Diabetes .. ..	—	1
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System .. ..	22	21
Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	13	9
Hypertension with Heart Disease .. ..	2	4
Other Heart Disease .. ..	26	34
Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	4	3
Influenza .. ..	—	1
Pneumonia .. ..	6	3
Bronchitis .. ..	5	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. ..	4	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .. ..	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	1	—
Congenital Malformations .. ..	1	—
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases .. ..	12	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	1	—
All other Accidents .. ..	1	—
Suicide .. ..	2	1
	128	119

## DEATH RATE

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
11.05	10.19	12.08	10.9	10.08	10.59	14.23	10.57	10.85	9.57

## CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 41. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
27	35	41	37	50	38	46	48	51	41

## CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

Year	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Yeovil Borough ... ..	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.5	2.1	1.58	2.06	2.02	2.14	1.7
County of Somerset ...	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	1.89	2.00	1.98	1.84	2.06
England and Wales ...	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.94	1.96	1.99	1.99	2.035

## INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 7 as compared with 8 for the year 1953. The rate per thousand of live births was 21.7 as compared with England and Wales—25.5

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years'.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number of Deaths ...	17	14	14	7	9	11	8	7
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil ... ..	37.1	36.4	37.4	20	25	30	22.5	21.7
Rate per 1,000 live births in England and Wales	41	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.5	25.5

## CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	...	...	...	2
Anaemia	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Congenital Amyotonia	...	...	...	1
Haemolytic Disease	...	...	...	1

## AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours 3	Under 1 week 5	1 month or under 6	Under 1 year 7
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## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year. From 1946 onwards there has been no maternal death in the Borough which reflects very creditably on the obstetric services.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year

DISEASE	<i>Cases Notified</i>	
	1953	1954
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	5	3
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	5	5
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	—	2
Measles .. .. .	417	4
Pneumonia .. .. .	14	15
Erysipelas .. .. .	—	2
Whooping Cough .. .. .	69	5
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	5	15
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	2	—
Food Poisoning .. .. .	—	2
Total .. .. .	517	53

## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The number of children under the age of 5 years at the 31st December, 1954 who had been immunised against Diphtheria or Diphtheria and Whooping Cough was 1,035. The number of children born in the Borough during the corresponding period, viz. 1950–1954 was 1,745, *i.e.* 60%. The Yeovil figures are better than the average, but it is evident that there is considerable scope for improvement. In addition, 2,598 children between the age of 5 and 14 years were known to have had either a course of immunisation or re-inforcement dose during the same period making a grand total of 3,633.

## VACCINATION

The total number of vaccinations carried out in the Borough was 225, Primary and 28 Re-vaccinations. Of the number of primary vaccinations, 199 were of infants, *i.e.* under the age of 1 year. The number of births for the preceding year, 1953, was



356, *i.e.* approximately 57%. This compares favourably with Somerset County, where the percentage based on similar figures was 48.4%.

## PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED IN 1953.

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Under 1</i>		<i>1</i>		<i>2 to 4</i>		<i>5 to 14</i>		<i>15 and over</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>R</i>
Yeovil												
Borough	199	—	11	—	7	—	4	7	4	21	225	28
Somerset												
County	2,723	—	154	—	145	25	144	124	254	825	3,420	978

P—Primary

R—Re-vaccination

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 26, non-pulmonary 4. There were 5 deaths recorded as due to pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
No. of cases notified Pulmonary ... ..	26	18	24	31	23	22	26	36
„ „ „ „ Non-Pulmonary ... ..	4	7	3	3	8	2	5	8
No. of deaths Pulmonary ... ..	5	4	9	12	8	5	2	7
„ „ „ „ Non-Pulmonary ... ..	2	1	2	—	—	2	—	—
Death rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ... ..	0.20	0.17	0.38	0.51	0.33	0.21	0.1	0.31

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

During the year the Mass Radiography Unit made two visits to Yeovil. A total of 3,899 adults were examined, of whom 6 were found to have active tuberculosis. A further 27 were found to have inactive tuberculosis and 51 were found to have other abnormalities of the chest. In addition, 662 school children 14+ years were examined making a grand total of 4,561 examinations.



<i>No. of Examinations carried out.</i>				<i>No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed</i>	
				<i>Active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
1948	4,260	...	...	9	32
1949	2,298	...	...	13	31
1950	2,316	...	...	4	41
1951	3,015	...	...	8	34
1952	4,191	...	...	9	37
1953	4,460	...	...	12	22
1954	4,561	...	...	6	32

## DENTAL TREATMENT

Number of Ante-natal cases	...	41
Number of Post-natal cases	...	33
Number of children under 5 years		330

## INFANT WELFARE

Total number of children attending		856
Total number of children attending for first time	... ..	282
Total number of attendances made		3,707

## HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

Infants :—

Primary visits	... ..	331
Subsequent visits	... ..	3,665
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	...	5,009

## BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

The number of expectant mothers attending the clinic continues to be satisfactory—a total of 422 attending during the year. A considerable proportion of these patients are resident outside the Borough. Records are now held of 2,606 patients.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

This service continues to render excellent assistance and the following table indicates the scope of its activities.

Following alterations to the Preston Road Clinic the office accommodation for the local organising staff has been moved to buildings adjacent to the Clinic, and this has made for still closer liaison between the Home Help Service and the Public Health Staff, especially Health Visitors. The new location of the offices are also much more convenient for the public.

## NUMBER OF CASES WHO RECEIVED HELP IN 1954 :—

<i>Type of Case</i>	<i>Yeovil Borough</i>
Maternity ... ..	21
Old Age and Infirmary ... ..	101
Tuberculosis ... ..	5
Chronic Illness ... ..	29
Emergency Illness ... ..	31
Families of motherless children ...	4
	<hr/>
Totals ... ..	191

A number of the old age and chronic cases have received help for two or three years.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

P. POWER FOX  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Parents attending school clinics or medical inspections have been heard to say on frequent occasions that "such a service" was not available when they were at school. Partly prompted by such remarks, it was thought opportune to compare the school health services in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area in the year 1954 with that of the Borough of Yeovil for the year 1924.

Examination of the Annual Report of the Yeovil School Medical Officer for 1924 reveals the service then to be rudimentary as compared with the present day. The school medical service consisted chiefly of :—

- (a) Routine and special medical inspections carried out at the schools.
- (b) Minor Ailment Treatment.
- (c) Inspections by the School Nurse for cleanliness of the body and of clothing.
- (d) A very limited scheme for dealing with defects of nose and throat and of defective vision.
- (e) A very limited dental scheme, viz., seven sessions (half days) per month for dental treatment and a session per month for dental inspections.

The facilities for dealing with physically or mentally handicapped children, judging from the statistical tables, were slight, a very small proportion of such children being at Special Schools.

The school health service now provided has increased in the scope of the examinations and has also been expanded so as to provide remedial and preventive treatment, which apart from Minor Ailments treatment, did not form a large part of the service in 1924.

The school health service now consists of :—

- (a) Routine and special medical inspections.
- (b) Minor Ailments treatment.
- (c) Cleanliness inspections of children by Health Visitors.
- (d) Dental inspection and treatment.
- (e) A much expanded scheme, in co-operation with the Hospital services, for the treatment of defects of vision, and of ear; nose and throat.

In addition the following services are also provided :—

- (f) Routine Mass Radiography of all children of school leaving age. Special examinations of children, irrespective of age, who have been thought to have been exposed to a particular risk of tuberculous infection have been carried out, with the co-operation of the mass Radiography Service.
- (g) Routine Colour Vision testing of children.
- (h) Routine and special testing of children's hearing acuity, using the Gramophone Audiometer.



- (i) Speech Therapy.
- (j) Ultra Violet light clinics for debilitated children.
- (k) Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria. This consists mainly of reinforcement inoculations of children already immunised, but children who have been "missed" in infancy are immunised.
- (l) Breathing Exercises Clinic.

In addition to the above, arrangements exist for a special session at the Yeovil Borough Swimming Baths for the rehabilitation of certain types of physically handicapped children. A large proportion of these pupils are those who have had Anterior Poliomyelitis with a residual physical defect. The value of this scheme is now well established and much credit is due to the work carried out by the local detachment of the British Red Cross.

The Breathing Exercises Clinic was established in 1950, and is intended mainly for children who have Asthma, but also for other children with a history of chest trouble and for whom breathing exercises are valuable. The number of children initially enrolled was 18 : the number on the roll in December, 1954, was 45. The total number of attendances in the year was 956 and since the inception of the scheme 79 children have been or are being treated. There is a marked improvement physically of children attending regularly as shown by the increase in chest expansion and also by clinical examination of the chest. In addition, the children develop a sense of self confidence as they learn how to combat an impending attack of asthma, and there is a marked improvement of physique and general posture.

The importance of asthma as a disease is frequently overlooked ; about 3,000 deaths a year are ascribed to asthma, in England and Wales. In terms of incapacity, it is stated that asthma accounts for 206 days out of every 10,000 of incapacity for all causes. By comparison, the figure for tuberculosis is 108, and for gastric and duodenal ulcer together 224. It will be appreciated, therefore, that any measure to help the asthmatic child is of importance, and it is recognised that the treatment of asthma in childhood is to a considerable extent truly preventative medicine. The main credit for the success of the Clinic is due to the Health Visitors, and in particular Miss Waltham, who has been in charge of the Clinic since its inception.

A study of the 1924 report affords evidence of the improvement in the clothing and cleanliness of school children. In that report, 72 cases of poor and 3 of very poor clothing are quoted. Further, there were 68 cases of defective boots and 1 of very bad boots during the year : such cases are not seen nowadays. A further change for the better is the great diminution of infestation



with vermin. In 1924, out of the 4,005 examinations of school children, 590 were found to be infested (550 with nits and 40 with lice), a rate of 148 per 1,000. In 1954, out of the 11,294 examinations, only 45 children were found to be infested, a rate of 4 per 1,000. In 1924, there were 17 cases of ringworm, and 23 of impetigo out of 1,960 children. In 1954, out of a school population of 6,200 there was one case of ringworm and two of impetigo. The incidence and type of defects of school children have altered and this has led to changes in the school health services. In the final paragraph of his Report for the years 1952 and 1953, Sir John Charles, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, states : " Change is a characteristic of all living things and, if there is vitality in the school health service, it will adapt itself to changing circumstances." It is hoped that the foregoing remarks regarding the school health service in the South-East Somerset (Yeovil) Divisional Area are evidence that the service is endeavouring to cope with the present-day problems.

# R E P O R T

OF THE

## SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

### for the year 1954

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND SANITARY  
COMMITTEE :

Gentlemen,

In presenting the Report for 1954 one is reminded that this was the centenary year. In 1854 the town consisted of about 1,440 dwellings and some 173 other buildings, with a population of approximately 7,750. The environmental health situation must at that time have been generally appalling ; bad drainage, polluted wells, overcrowded factories and bad housing conditions prevailed. With the years most of these things have passed away, but unsatisfactory housing is a matter which still remains. It is therefore hoped that with the further housing legislation introduced in 1954 the final drive to improve the housing situation by getting rid of the remaining unfit houses, will steadily proceed.

## NUISANCES

### COMPLAINTS

Included below is a list of the various complaints received by the Department during the year :—

General housing defects ...	...	42
Defective drainage, cesspools, etc.		36
Smoke, dust and effluvia	...	12
Rats and mice ...	...	75
Verminous premises	...	3

Kitchen Waste Bins	...	...	17
Overcrowding	...	...	2
Keeping of animals and poultry			2
Foodstuffs and food premises	...		7
Caravans	...	...	1
Dumping of refuse	...	...	3
Nuisances from water courses	...		5
Unwholesome premises	...	...	3
Factories and Workshops		...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	4
			<hr/>
Total			218
			<hr/>

## HOUSING

### FITNESS

A survey of the older tenanted houses was commenced in the Autumn. The Borough has been divided into areas, and up to the end of the year two areas were dealt with, and approximately 173 houses were inspected. Many are sub-standard, and the principal defects found besides general disrepair were :—

- (1) Rising and penetrating dampness.
- (2) Roof subsidence.

### OVERCROWDING

No definite figure of the number of cases is available, but it is believed to be in the region of 30—a drop of 20 on the previous year. Approximately half that number are applicants for Council houses

## FOOD INSPECTION

### FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspection of the many varied premises included under this heading has been carried out, and generally speaking the standard of cleanliness is well maintained. At some premises, however, conditions have not been satisfactory, and where this is the case the policy of getting the premises improved is a point which is pursued. Occasionally one finds that some of those employed in food handling do not always appear to fully understand the hygienic responsibilities of the job.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

With the release of meat control the Queen Street premises have been taken over by a private company, and continue to serve both the Borough and Rural areas. There has been a marked improvement in the finished product. The total number of animals dealt with during the year, 22,693, is a record, and has considerably increased the amount of time spent on meat inspection.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1950	2152	7587	7203	1092	18034
1951	2491	5654	9513	62	17720
1952	2238	7148	11971	61	21418
1953	2272	7388	11456	81	21197
1954	2149	7480	12276	788	22693

The following statement contains particulars of the number of carcasses killed and inspected during the year, together with the amounts of meat condemned.



	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1233	916	788	748	12276
Number inspected	1233	916	788	748	12276
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned	5	3	3	19	56
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	371	260	—	302	1808
% of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	30·49%	28·71%	·38%	4·29%	15·18%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned	5	9	—	—	32
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	200	145	—	—	420
% of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	16·62%	12·48%	—	—	3·60%

## MEAT INSPECTION

The small number of carcasses condemned reflects favourably upon the improved health of the animals slaughtered, *i.e.* 1·0% cattle, ·3% calves, ·2% sheep and ·7% pigs. No cases of congenital T.B. were discovered amongst calves, and the incidence of T.B. in cow carcasses dropped from 27·7% to 12·45%. The total number of cattle killed was almost double the previous year. The percentage affected with T.B. in some degree, 16·62%, was about the same as for 1953.

## MEAT OTHER THAN CARCASSES CONDEMNED

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	
BEEF ...	—	14	—	16	} T.B., Bruising, Abcesses, Injuries, etc.
PORK ...	—	3	1	4	

## OFFAL CONDEMNED

			<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>
Part Livers ...	...	...	552	—	—	—
Livers ...	...	...	246	155	324	—
Lungs ...	...	...	96	80	947	—
Lungs and Hearts ...	...	...	94	42	103	—
Heads and Tongues ...	...	...	104	5	190	—
Plucks ...	...	...	—	44	268	—
Milts ...	...	...	39	—	—	—
Skirts ...	...	...	35	—	—	—
Tripes ...	...	...	33	—	—	—
Kidneys ...	...	...	9	—	21	—

## CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED

Meat ...	...	...	673 tins	} Damaged or unsound and unfit for human consumption
Milk ...	...	...	174 tins	
Fruit and Vegetables ...	...	...	1757 tins	
Fish ...	...	...	212 tins	
Ham ...	...	...	29 tins	
Jam ...	...	...	5 tins	
Soup ...	...	...	2 tins	
Chicken ...	...	...	1 tin	
Tongue ...	...	...	3 tins	
Kidneys ...	...	...	3 tins	
			2,859 tins	

## UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

Sausages, Pork ...	...	...	10 lbs.	} Damaged or unsound and unfit for human consumption
Brawn ...	...	...	4 lbs.	
Coconut Ice ...	...	...	9 lbs.	
Madeira Cakes ...	...	...	12 lbs.	
Chickens ...	...	...	5	
Steak and Kidney Pies ...	...	...	24	

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following disinfections were carried out in connection with the above :—

Houses disinfected	...	...	12
Rooms sprayed or fumigated	...	...	73
Tuberculosis	...	...	32
Cancer	...	...	13
Vermin	...	...	8
Steam Disinfections	...	...	16
Library Books	...	...	58
Gloving Fumigated	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	20

## VERMIN INFESTATION

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

#### 1. SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

During the year the sewerage system in the Borough was again systematically tested for rats. The following figures show the work carried out. The infestations found have all proved to be of a minor character.

Areas test baited	...	...	10
Points baited	...	...	185
Negative results (presumed clear)	...	...	128
Total number of visits made	...	...	438

#### 2. PRIVATE PREMISES, (including business premises)

Number of premises visited	...	...	439
Number treated for some degree of infestation	...	...	94
Number of premises with no infestation	...	...	345
Total number of all visits	...	...	769
Number of points baited	...	...	1579
Number of premises cleared	...	...	90

#### 3. CORPORATION PREMISES.

Inspection and treatment are carried out at the Corporation Sewage Works and refuse tips regularly. The work is done as a practical measure in order to keep any infestation under control. During the year approximately 220 visits were made, and more than 2,000 points baited.

## FOOD AND DRUGS—MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949.

The following are particulars from the Register :—

(a)	Number of Retailers	...	...	...	...	13
(b)	Number of Produce Retailers included in (a)...					4
(c)	Number of licensed Pasteurising Plants	...				2

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949. APPLICATIONS GRANTED TO RETAILERS FOR RE- GISTRATION UNDER THE ABOVE REGULATIONS.

(a)	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	7
(b)	Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	5

### GRADED MILK PRODUCERS IN THE DISTRICT

(a)	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3
(b)	Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	2

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

### APPLICATIONS GRANTED FOR REGISTRATION OF PERSONS AND PREMISES

For sale and storage of Icecream	...	...	...	9
For preparation of Preserved Food	...	...	...	nil

### ICE CREAM

Total number of premises registered at the end of the year :—

(a)	Manufacture, sale and storage	...	...	1
(b)	Sale and storage only	...	...	81

### MILK

<i>Samples taken for keeping quality only</i>				
<i>Sanitary Inspectors' Department</i>			<i>*Somerset County Council</i>	
	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>
Number taken	8	20	31	162
Number passed	8	20	27	149
Number failed	—	—	4	13

\*Results are from reports supplied by S.C.C.



## BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES (raw milk tested for T.B. Bacilli)

These are now taken by the Somerset County Council. No information of positive results was received during the year

## SAMPLES

## ICE CREAM

<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Placed in Provisional Grades</i>			
	1.	2.	3.	4.
49	43	5	1	0

## SWIMMING BATHS WATER

<i>Readings taken for residual chlorine</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
10	10	—

NOTE.—Actual routine samples are no longer required by the Public Health Laboratory.

## WATER

<i>Source</i>	<i>Bacteriological</i>			<i>Chemical</i>		
	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Main Supplies (to cover all sources)	22	20	2	—	—	—
Source Supplies (supplying mains)	14	11	3	10	10	—

\*All water supplies are chlorinated before passing to the mains.

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections made, together with the results, are given in the following tables.

### INSPECTIONS

Housing and other premises inspected under					
Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	559
Number of inspections made for the purpose					576
Complaints	...	...	...	...	142
Drainage	...	...	...	...	251
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	4
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	18
Rodents (Visits by S. I.'s)	...	...	...	...	13
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	9
Dust Nuisances	...	...	...	...	1
Interviewing owners, builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	156
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	8
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	43

### FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1340
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	63
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	102
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	13
Dairies	...	...	...	...	46
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	59
Re-Applications for registration	...	...	...	...	8
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	17
Other premises	...	...	...	...	233
Inspections for Sanitary Accommodation, etc.					17
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	23

## SAMPLES TAKEN

Water—Bacteriological	...	...	...	36
Chemical	...	...	...	10
Icecream ...	...	...	...	49
Milk—Pasteurised	...	...	...	20
T.T.	...	...	...	8

## RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

## GENERAL DEFECTS

Roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	17
Chimneys re-built	...	...	...	7
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	5
Guttering repaired	...	...	...	5
Downspouts repaired	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired ...	...	...	...	12
Walls decorated ...	...	...	...	36
Windows repaired	...	...	...	8
Windows painted...	...	...	...	7
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired ...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	17
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired ...	...	...	...	3
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	8
Roofs renewed ...	...	...	...	4
Walls rendered ...	...	...	...	13
Yards repaired ...	...	...	...	6
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	12
Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	11

## DRAINAGE

Indoor water supply laid on	...	...	...	1
Drainage relaid ...	...	...	...	22
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	2
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	33
W.C.'s built ...	...	...	...	16

Pail Closet System converted	...	...	...	3
New W.C. Pans provided	...	...	...	9
W.C. Cisterns renewed	...	...	...	2
Sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Gulleys provided	...	...	...	10
Baths fixed	...	...	...	1
Urinals fixed	...	...	...	1
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	16
Interceptors fixed	...	...	...	2
C.I. Covers provided	...	...	...	11
Connection to sewer	...	...	...	1

## FOOD PREMISES

Constant hot water supply provided for washing facilities	...	...	...	...	3
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## STATUTORY ACTION TAKEN UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

<i>Act and Section</i>	<i>Statutory notice served</i>	<i>Court action</i>	<i>Abated</i>	<i>In hand</i>
Public Health Act, 1936 Section 24 .. ..	2	—	2	—
Public Health Act, 1936 Section 39 .. ..	1	—	—	1
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 .. ..	12	—	9	3
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138 as amended by Section 30 Water Act, 1945.	1	—	1	—



## STATUTORY ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACTS

<i>Statutory Action Taken</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>	<i>No. of persons displaced</i>
HOUSING ACT, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 .. .. .	1	—
(b) (i) Houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11 .. .. .	—	—
(b) (ii) Unfit houses owned and demolished by Local Authority .. .. .	7	20½
(c) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 ..	3	9½
HOUSING ACT, 1949		
(d) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1) ..	—	—
(e) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2) ..	—	—
(f) Demolition Orders squashed under Section 2	—	—
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISC. PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953		
(g) Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) ..	—	—
(h) Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders made under Section 10 (3) .. ..	—	—
HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 SECTION 26 (1)		
Applications for Certificate of Disrepair .. ..	2	—
Application for Revocation of Certificate of Disrepair .. .. .	1	—

## FACTORY ACT 1947

Visits re nuisances, sanitary accommodation, etc. 19

Inspections re Section 34 (Means of Escape in case of fire) ... .. 9

## SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Construction of the new works was well in hand at the end of the year despite adverse weather conditions.

Minor alterations were made to the existing works during the year in order to expedite the new construction. This resulted in some flooding at times.

Further trouble with paraffin and grease from the leather dressing yards, and sump oil, presumably from garages, has occurred at times.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL

Disposal costs for the year have shown a saving on previous years when the destructor was working. Comparative figures are given below.

The present method has reduced nuisance from insects, rats or spontaneous combustion to a satisfactory minimum.

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Years ending</i>	<i>Year under review</i>
	<i>31/3/53</i>	<i>31/3/54 ending 31/12/54</i>
	£	£
Destructor	3,355	1,597
Tipping	776	1,605
	£4,031	3,202
		2,065

### SALVAGE

The amounts of salvage materials collected and sold during the year are shown below.

<i>Materials</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>£</i>
Waste Paper ... ..	34	102
Kitchen Waste ... ..	598 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,694 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cooking Potatoes ... ..	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bones ... ..	$\frac{3}{4}$	4
Tins ... ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Clinkers (loads) ... ..	9	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Miscellaneous Sales ... ..	—	7

Kitchen Waste collections and returns have been very satisfactory; although the amount dealt with shows a drop of over 100 tons, compared with the previous year the figures compare favourably with the amounts collected in previous years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.



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A. STEVENS & CO., WOODLAND GROVE, YEOVIL

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